

AEA-Retired Executive Board Meeting  
Minutes of December 13, 2016

1. Call to Order at 10:18 by President Horwin

Board members in attendance; Julie Horwin, Suzan Austin, Ken Freed, Steve Linder, Linda Somo, Danny Barlow, Anna Cicero, Marilyn Freed, Barbara Matteson, Gary Mehok, Luci Messing, Steven Ramos, Tricia Roach, Sally Rosen, Susie Sommer, Jean Stephenson, Connie Wittig, Larry Wittig, Juan Zuniga. Chapter Chairs; Rob Johan, Michelle Smith, Marilyn Calhoun, Nancy Riley, Ann Myers. Members; Aurora Aber, Shirley Boswell, Judy Moy, Norma Jimenez, Melanie Hobden, Carmen Peters, Delia Greth, Christine Ehlis. Staff; none

Note: Time was provided for Matteson to update the Board on the health of Kathy Campbell. We all wish her well for a speedy recovery and a healthy 2017. Barbara passed an envelope for collection towards a gift.

2. Approval of Agenda, with flexibility (K. Freed/Somo)

**Approved**

3. Approval of the minutes of November, 2016 (M. Freed/C. Wittig)

**Approved**

4. Membership Processing Chair Boswell shared the most recent membership data. Currently we have 2205 members with 1629 using dues deduct. We have 64 new members this year. (See printed report for more information.)

5. Membership Outreach chair, Roach, shared that the Membership committee would meet after the January Board meeting and asked that all committee members bring their copy of the Membership Plan with them.

6. New Business Items

None for December. Roach made us aware that she would be bringing a new business item in January asking that the AEA-Retired subscribe to the Capital Times for a year, on a trial basis.

7. Financials presented by Treasurer Linder.

Assets	\$81,849
Liabilities	\$21,366
Equity	\$60,482

(See written report for more information.)

Linder shared information about the specific lines, with discussion on the contingency fund and the membership line. He asked the Board how we wanted the accounting expenditure to Henry & Horne dealt with in the financials.

Move that the accounting expense of \$2,000 be charged to the contingency fund. It was noted that this would over-expend this line. (Somo/K. Freed)

Passed

8. Officers' Reports

**President Horwin-President's Report – December 2016**

1. Election Results – We have no choice: organize and strategize for response
  - a. Medicare is under attack. Messaging is important.
2. 2017 NEA-Retired Organizing Conference March 21-23. Application to receive support via Members' Dues is now online. \$5K budget. I have emailed the following link to each of you this morning.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017OrganizingConference>
3. Leadership Summit – Now online at NEA-Retired. All NEA members invited to attend. No support this year from NEA or AEA-Retired. Find out more: <http://www.nea.org/> Registration closes December 20. Over 700 already registered.
4. Governor Ducey's Classrooms First Commission. See written Report.
5. Election Volunteerism survey results. From an active member, "How can I join the retired PAC? You did more work than my local. I want to support you."
6. Nomination of Barbara Matteson for NEA-Retired Distinguished Service Award
7. Barbara Matteson: Nomination of Gabby Giffords for 2017 HCR MLK award
8. New Educator Project: Retiree Experience. Working with Mesa EA. Date to be set this week. An email with application will go out from NEA to all NEA-Retired educators soon.
9. If you haven't seen NEA Pres. Lily Eskelsen-Garcia's response to Trump's nomination for Ed. Secretary, I recommend it for great messaging. <http://lilysblackboard.org/2016/11/msnbc-lily-reacts-betsy-devos-nominationeducation-secretary/>
10. January AEA-Retired Budget Meeting

**Move that the AEA-Retired Board of Directors take a position of support for the nomination of Barbara Matteson for the NEA-Retired Distinguished Service Award. (K. Freed/C. Wittig)** **Passed**

**Vice-President Austin**-Shared that the next M.O.R.E events will be in Phoenix on February 21 and Tucson on February 22. Also the next leadership development session will be on March 14-15.

Additional grant money for our new grant, totaling \$4,222.50, has been received.  
(See written report for additional information.)

**Liaison Sleeper**-not in attendance

**AEA Director (Barlow)**-A written report for our Dec. 10 meeting was distributed by Barlow. He also shared the agenda and indicated that the AEA Board meeting minutes of the meeting were not yet available.

(See written report for additional information.)

**AEA Fund Council Representative (Somo)**-Shared the agenda from the meeting of Dec. 9 and the actions that were discussed at the meeting in a written report. It is interesting reading and all should look at how our money was spent this past election cycle.

**Secretary K. Freed**-nothing to report.

9. ASRS

Ramos indicated that at the time of the printing of the agenda he had nothing to report. Since then he has attended a meeting and shared that ASRS will be requesting a new bill to be run in the legislature that would impact non-participating employers. This bill would address the ASU situation by putting wording in statute that would delineate the costs to an employer if they should choose to withdraw their employees from the ASRS system

He also shared that an alternative contribution rate would probably be part of this bill.

(If you want a copy of the written report please ask Ramos to email it to you, or let me know and I will bring you a copy of what he provided to me.)

10. Political Action

Co-chair Wittig reported on the previous days training. There were 35 in attendance which included several activists from outside the association. Thirty-four of them have signed up to lobby on lobby day. The training was facilitated by AEA's new government relations specialist, Stephanie Parra with the assistance of Senator Martin Quezada.

11. Chapter Chair Reports

**West Valley/Glendale (Sommer)**-The chapter met on Dec 1 and discussed the latest ASRS news, recent state elections and the influence of ASU and GCU in the area. Members were encouraged to make positive contacts with previous colleagues, our schools and to look forward to the 2017 Annual Meeting. **The next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 2** at Ironworks Restaurant, 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Bell Rd. by Emily Chung of A New Pathway for Youth. **The Next meeting is Jan. 11** at 63 East Main Street, Mesa.

**Scottsdale/Paradise Valley (Myers/Riley)**-On Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, guest speaker Judy Swartz explained about the CASA program. **The next meeting will be on Jan. 16**, with future meetings Mar. 20 and May 15. Meetings start at 11:00 and are held at the Denny's Restaurant on Mayo Blvd and Scottsdale Rd.

**Kyrene/Tempe/Chandler (Feldner)**-Jan Nichols spoke on Nov. 16th about charter schools and their impact on public education. **The Next meeting is Jan. 18** with a speaker yet to be determined.

**Tucson (Calhoun)**-The Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> speaker was Joe Thomas, AEA President. He spoke about the election outcomes and stressed that policy is what matters. He shared his concerns and the challenges that we will face with the legislature and Congress. **The Next meeting is Dec. 20** at the TEA office. A celebration honoring the closing of the office will be occur.

**Phoenix (Smith)**-The Phoenix chapter met at Beatitudes at 1610 W. Glendale on November 15. The focus of the meeting was three fold; increasing membership, the successes for education in local elections, and how we can move forward after the 2016 election. **The next meeting is on Jan. 17, at 10:30** will be at Beatitudes.

**Southern Arizona (Rosen)**-The Southeast chapter met on Nov. 15 at The Peacock. The 23 members in attendance celebrated the passage of the Sierra Vista bond

election and the election of one of our own, Barbara Williams. The **next meeting will be Jan. 19 at 5:30** at La Casita.

**Yavapai (Johan)**-The chair continues to reach out to the AEA Regional director in an attempt to work together for the organization. Thus far he has been unsuccessful, but he will continue in this endeavor.

**Flagstaff (Roach)**-The chapter meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month with the **next meeting on Jan 3**. At the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting they discussed the repercussions of the election. This included lessons learned, the safety pin project, “fake” news and the President elects staffing choices. Each member has chosen to become an expert on a topic and share their expertise as issues occur.

12. Alliances and Coalitions

A. Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans-Somo provided a written report from the Alliance. A decision has been made to meet with each member of the Senate and House about Medicare in an attempt to make certain that Medicare is secure

B. Valley Interfaith Project-L. Wittig shared a report of a recent workshop where the featured speaker was Tom Rex, an ASU Economist. Rex indicated several things, including; tax cuts, in Arizona, don't work, Arizona is not prepared for a downturn, there is currently no possibility of tax increases, and to make Arizona work economically we must work on initiatives. Look for initiatives on Prop 301 and to overturn the 75% rule for tax increase.

13. Half-back Raffle of \$30 was won by Zuniga.

14. Adjournment at 12:48. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 2017

**\*\*Notes \*\***

Lunch was a holiday luncheon followed by a gift exchange.  
Many **THANKS** to Susie, Nancy, Ellie, Marilyn, Ann, Sally, Michelle, and Tricia for submitting their chapter chair reports in advance.